

# DARING GEM HOLDUP NETS \$20,000 HERE

## Mystery Blaze at Torrance Hotel



**BLAZING AUTO** and general confusion resulted Monday from a fire in the rear of the Murray Hotel at 1210 El Prado, downtown Torrance. Firemen are shown quenching the blaze in a car engulfed in flames after a mystery explosion was heard. The car, totally destroyed, was believed to have been deliberately fired. Pry marks were found on the car door. Paint on the side of the hotel was blistered, but no major damage to the building was reported.

—PRESS photo

## Just for You— Our New Press

The Press continues its expansion program with additional major service for readers and advertisers with new press facilities scheduled to begin with Sunday's issue.

With completion of installation of the Goss full color press, this newspaper's operations will be completely housed in one building.

We will, for the first time, be able to begin with the origination of news and advertising copy in our own offices, set the copy in type, proofread it, put in page forms, roll page mats, and cast the mats—THEN put them on our own press—one of the finest in the country.

Full color—three colors plus black—will be available on any page of any edition—and we will be able to run up to 64 full-size pages at one time.

Thus, The Press will be able to provide top-quality printing and reproduction, produced by expert craftsmen, on a level equal to that of most daily newspapers.

There are no presses in this area comparable in all-around performance to our new "baby."

We hope to keep growing with Torrance—the fastest-growing area in the county—and so far we're doing it. This new press—for us—as for astronaut Cooper earlier today—is "Go."

## Spring Book Breakfast Held

The Los Angeles County Library presented its annual Spring Book Breakfast for the 21st time today at 8:45 a.m., in the Pacific Ballroom, Statler Hilton Hotel.

Glamorous and colorful in its setting, the breakfast has grown through its long history into the largest event on the local literary scene.

Devoted wholly to children's books and authors, it is attended almost wholly by adults, those who are especially interested in the combination of book and child.

The breakfast celebrates the right of every young reader to have access to the best books available. Its author-speakers are selected on the basis of interest, emotional appeal, integrity and literary quality of their work.

### Authors Listed

Authors presented this year by County Librarian William S. Geller and Mrs. Mary Rogers Smith, the county's chief children's librarian and breakfast chairman, were David R. Bursleigh, Frank Bonham, Sid Fleischman, Eleanor Cameron, Ralph Moody, Hildgarde Hoyt Swift and Leo Politi.

Bonham and Fleischman are fairly new to children's literature, though both are experienced writers who have produced books for adult consumption. Ralph Moody has already entered that special group of writers who produce bonafide class-

## Armed Forces Day Parade Set Saturday

Torrance today is awaiting its annual Armed Forces Day Parade, slated for Saturday. Military and school bands and a fireworks display are scheduled.

Assistant Defense Secretary Norman Paul will be grand marshal, and will lead the parade together with Marlene Norsoph, Miss Torrance, and local civic leaders.

Parade officials have said this is to be the largest city-sponsored event in the Western-U.S. this year. The parades annually draw thousands of spectators from all over Southern California.

More than 19 bands are already entered in the parade, including novelty-type bands, crack service units, and local high school and youth groups.

The parade is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. at the Civic Center.

## CITY DENIES \$368,000 IN DAMAGE BIDS

Water damage claims for more than \$368,000 resulting from the February 9 and 10 storm were denied last night by the Torrance City Council.

The claims were from a large number of individuals and firms and ranged from a few hundred dollars to \$34,000.

Mayor Isen noted that the city couldn't be expected to be "an insurer" and the council was unanimous in its denial. The claimants will now have to sue the city and hope for a court award.

## Inside the Press

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• TORRANCE  
• SOUTH BAY  
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• HARBOR AREA



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## Torrance Faces Slum In 20 Years — Mayor

### Quick Profit Speculators Are Blasted

Mayor Albert Isen warned Torrance City Council last night that this city faces a possible "slum" or "tenement" situation in 15 or 20 years — unless the council wakes up and insists on strict conformity to building and zoning laws.

Isen blasted speculators and others "who have no real interest in Torrance and its growth. All they want," he said, "is a quick profit." He added that he was not singling out any individuals, but was concerned over a general situation.

The mayor's remarks were prompted by another in a series of applications by developers for apartment tracts in commercial zones.

While R-3 zoning is for apartments, under the present law, apartments may be built in the C-2 zone. However, there would be nothing the mayor pointed out, to prevent people from operating businesses — "saxophone studios and tailor shops" — next door to other apartment residents.

The council expressed unanimous concern over the matter and affirmed its policy of asking developers to seek appropriate zone changes before coming to the council.

A study was ordered to determine if it would be feasible to eliminate apartments from commercial zoning.

## Torrance Woman Hurt in Accident

Beatrice Jamey, 59, of 704 Amapola St., was seriously injured in an automobile accident Monday morning at Amapola Street and Sierra Avenue. She was taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Mrs. James was a passenger in a car driven by Emil Edward Jamey, 58, of the same address. Their car collided with a vehicle driven by Edith Florene Ward, 48, of 917 Portola St. Neither she nor Jamey were seriously injured, police reported.

## Car Wash to Aid Cuban Refugee

A group calling itself itself the Peninsula College Group has scheduled a car wash from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday in the Peninsula Shopping Center, Rolling Hills, at the corner of Hawthorne Blvd. and Silver Spur Road.

The donations of \$1 per wash will be used to sponsor Eujolio Casola, a Cuban refugee recently arrived here, a spokesman reported. Dr. Kenneth Reeves of St. Peter's Presbyterian Church is aiding the group, it was reported.



**POLICE MEMORIAL** rites were conducted yesterday in front of Torrance Civic Center to honor city officers killed in the line of duty. The entire police force turned out for the central rite of National Police Week, which

concludes with an Open House Saturday for the public at police headquarters on Torrance Boulevard. Chief Percy Bennett inspects a line of officers at the inspection.

—PRESS photo by William Schell Jr.



**YOU'RE OUT** — City Councilman George Vico, left, a former major league ballplayer, jokingly "tosses out" the "Casey Stengel" of the Torrance Babe Ruth League, Joe Kling, at opening ceremonies of this year's league season. The Babe Ruthers,

who play every Saturday at Plaza del Amo and Western, honored Kling for his 10-year managerial record. He never finished worse than third and his teams have won several titles. He is manager of the Angels.

—PRESS photo by Gordon Akers

## Robbers Hit Shop Center In Daylight

A "high-low" pair of bandits made off with more than \$20,000 in jewelry and watches in a daring daylight holdup Monday in Torrance.

The two bandits, one short and fiftyish, the other taller and younger, made their tandem move at the Shearer's store at 2597 Pacific Coast Highway, in the Rolling Hills Plaza shopping center.

### 'This Is Your Life'

Walter Shearer, 42, operator of the store, said he was waiting on a customer about 10:30 a.m. when he noticed a man waiting outside the store.

When the customer left, the slender man, with hair graying at the temples, walked in and said "This is a robbery. Do as I say and you won't get hurt. This is your life."

Shearer said he tried to talk the man out of committing the robbery, but the bandit produced a bag with "Goodwill Stores" written on it and said "Fill it — watches first."

The store owner told police the man made sure the most expensive watches were put in the bag.

Then an accomplice — younger and larger — walked in, Shearer said, took the bag from the first man, and began filling it with gems. The pair also took about \$35 from the cash register, Shearer said.

### Pulled Out Phone

The younger man pulled the telephone from the wall, and ordered Shearer at gunpoint to go into the rear of the store and lock himself in the restroom.

Two telephone linemen reported they saw the two bandits run across the parking lot, jump into a car driven by a third man, and flee.

The linemen plugged in their portable phone and called police, but the suspects got away.

## TORRANCE GIRL IS BEAUTY TITLIST

Barbara Van'Huisen, 20, a Torrance drama student, was named Miss Redondo Beach this week on her third try.

A brown-haired, brown-eyed South High graduate, Barbara defeated eight other contestants in the Miss California preliminary which could lead to the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City.

The new beauty queen attends the Ben Bard Theater Arts college, where she is studying dancing and singing. She was runner-up in the last two Miss Redondo Beach events.

Patti Campisi, also of Torrance, was named Miss Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce.

## Carrier Boys

Wanted  
DA 5-1515